

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2013 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilor Rivers, Gamble and DeLorenzo

Absent were: Deputy Mayor Hypolite, Wayne Casper and Barry Berson

Also present were: Susan True, Naomi Cohen, Philip Schenck Jr., Town Manager and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Update on all School Building Committees

Mr. Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities for the Board of Education and Mr. Barry Berson, Chair of the building committee for Carmen Arace Middle School were not present to give an updated report on Bloomfield High School or Carmen Arace respectively.

Elementary Schools

Mrs. Naomi Cohen, Chair of the Elementary schools building committee reported that there are two outstanding issues to closeout Laurel Elementary:

- Electric window shade needs repair. The manufacturer for the shade was called to fix the issue for opening and closing.
- There are several hairline cracks in the surfacing of the playground. Mr. Casper is communicating with O&G construction as well as the playground vendor to address this concern. The repair of the surface will take place in the spring due to temperature requirements for materials.

These two issues of concern along with a few outstanding bills will be resolved and the closeout process will begin for Laurel.

Administrative Report from the Town Manager

Mr. Philip Schenck, Jr., reported the following updates to the committee:

- Mr. Schenck, Jr. spoke with the owner of the Farmer's Exchange property. The owner is on target with paperwork for the demolition process. He is also interested in speaking with developers about utilizing the property that may be flexible to meet regulatory zoning requirements for the town center.
- The owners of the Valco property located on Cottage Grove Road; are taking the necessary steps to demolish that building and is seeking another tenant for leasing.
- On November 21, 2013, Mr. Schenck, Jr. will meet with the Mountain View Cemetery Association to discuss the maintenance contract for veteran gravesites. There is a five year agreement in place; however the price must be negotiated. In addition, the town is requesting an easement for the trail system at the rear base of the cemetery.
- The window replacements at Town Hall will begin within the week as a part of the Energy Conservation program for the town.
- On November 6, 2013, a Tax Sale will be held to recover delinquent taxes. The list has decreased to 10 properties from the original 22 listed. Two owners have declared bankruptcy resulting in forestalled tax sale of those properties.
- A tax abatement will be granted for Interfaith Homes. A \$50,000 grant was received to offset the cost and Interfaith Homes are in agreement to pay the difference. Attorney Marc Needelman will draft a memorandum of understanding outlining details of this abatement.
- On November 6, 2013, a meeting will be held with the Wintonbury Land Trust to discuss the outstanding issues with the Lisa Lane Farm and Hawk Hill Farm open space acquisitions.
- Dave Melesko and Mike McGarry are collaborating together to develop a program for this year's Colors of the Season. In addition, a series of potential concerts for spring and summer will be planned receiving support from the local business community and town center promotion of the EDC.
- Mrs. Bonnie Bercowetz and Mr. Bob Weiner, members of the EDC are working with the owners of Wintonbury Mall. The mall is currently under foreclosure status. Mrs. Bercowetz and Mr. Weiner are assisting in acquiring interest of another purchaser.
- Mr. Schenck, Jr. encouraged residents to vote on Election Day, November 5, 2013. On-site voting registrations will occur at the Registrar of Voters office at Town Hall.
- The town has begun increased publicity for noticing job openings to attract more Bloomfield resident applicants. These notices will be seen on the electronic signs in town as well as published in local newspapers.

On November 1, 2013, Mr. Schenck, Jr. stated that he met with Tuthill & Welles, architectural firm regarding expansion efforts for Prosser Library. There were several recommendations made regarding age cohorts of

most libraries, the digitized era conversion from printed media, tailoring community demographics, children's section and the need to enhance the teen section.

There were two schematic designs presented as well as a third option to build north and combining Leisure, Senior, and Social & Youth Services departments on the library site.

Prosser Library would be an important factor in promoting the overall town center as well as play an intricate part in a walk able community.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. informed the committee that budget guidance for Capital Improvement projects has been distributed to department heads and is due back on December 6, 2013. Budget guidance for the operating budget will be distributed on December 16, 2013 and is due back by January 17, 2013.

Other Business

It was noted that a new barbeque restaurant is considering coming to town in Wintonbury Mall. There has been preliminary discussion with the leasing agent for the mall to provide approximately 6,000 square feet on the southeast corner.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. stated that he received a CL&P list of all light poles in town. An inventory of non-working lights will be done that the town is responsible for.

In regards to Economic Development, the owner of Bloomfield Hardware is considering the possibility of leasing but has expressed no desire to sell.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Gamble, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.